

CITY COUNCIL RESCINDS 'HOUSEBREAKING' LAW ON ADVICE OF NEW ATTORNEY

The Torrance "housebreaking" ordinance recently approved by the City Council for the first reading was rescinded by the Council, Dec. 23.

The motion to rescind was offered by Councilman C. M. Gilbert, and Mayor J. Hugh Sherkey, Jr. immediately after the vote, asked City Attorney C. Douglas Smith for an opinion on the ordinance which would have permitted police to enter a house and arrest any person accused of intoxication to the "annoyance" of any other person—inside or out.

In the City Council chamber were citizens awaiting an opportunity to protest the issue, headed by George W. Downing. The ordinance was in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, they asserted.

"I recommend that this ordinance be dropped," City Attorney Smith said in concluding his remarks in which he expressed amazement at the fact that the Los Angeles City has such an ordinance.

Smith declared that the proposed Torrance ordinance had been misinterpreted and said that "careful reading shows that the provisions of the ordinance are not different from those already provided in the general laws," thus showing the need for the ordinance did not exist as claimed by Chief of Police John Stroh in urging its adoption.

"The alleged 'annoyance,'" Smith said, "must be committed in the presence of the officer, and this ordinance serves no good purpose other than what the law provides already."

Chief of Police Stroh had often said that police are helpless when a wife complains of intoxication and abuse on the part of her mate—unless the wife signs a complaint before a magistrate.

He had told the Council this would remedy the situation. Whether or not, with sale of intoxicating liquor being legal under the Constitution, the Council can legislate as to its consumption in a private home was not revealed in the City Attorney's opinion, but he claimed that this would be unconstitutional in itself.

It was the contention of the attorney that the "annoyed" person still would have to sign a complaint, under terms made unless the offense was committed in the presence of the officer. However, this was not the expressed intent of the ordinance in the eyes of those offering the now killed law.

The matter of legislation on consumption of liquor "in or on any private premises or in any private house" doubly renders the ordinance unconstitutional under the fourth amendment, in the Bill of Rights, it is claimed.

Herald Will Print Tax-Deed Properties Ads

The Torrance Herald is one of the 75 community newspapers selected by H. L. Byram, county tax collector, for printing the advertisements of the 1,500 parcels of tax-deeded properties scattered throughout the county which are to be auctioned at the Hall of Justice in Los Angeles, commencing Feb. 2, 1948.

The advertising will be published for three weeks beginning Jan. 8, 1948. Byram states that more interest is being shown in the pending sale, which is No. 51 of the series, than in any heretofore held. He accounts for this on the grounds that the Board of Supervisors has lowered the formula for the opening minimum bid prices.

The tax collector points out that the Feb. 2 offering consists only of selected parcels with assessed valuations ranging from \$500 to the \$10,000 valuation of a 22-acre piece in Benedict Canyon.

Particular interest is being evidenced, he said, in numerous parcels of acreage being offered in the Palmdale district where the county is establishing the new multi-million dollar airport and where the Lockheed Company proposes to establish its huge plant.

BALL SEEKS TO REZONE NORTH TORRANCE LAND

A petition of R. R. Ball to change the zoning of block 47, McDonald tract, from agriculture to commercial has been referred to the City Planning Commission by the City Council.

Block 47 is bordered by Crenshaw boulevard, Redondo Beach boulevard, 164th street and a county drainage channel.

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Happy New Year



TOTAL BUILDING FOR YEAR NEXT HIGHEST IN HISTORY

Building permits issued by the Torrance Building Department office during the year 1947, as of Monday, totaled \$7,281,963 in the second greatest year for construction in the city's history.

The all-time high was established in 1942 when a spurt of wartime industrial building sent the total to \$7,607,764. This year's figure, more than double the 1946 sum of \$3,096,964, was made up largely of residential construction.

During the past week permits to build ten homes on Adolf avenue and Newton street were taken out by Select Homes, Inc. Valuation of proposed dwellings as listed on the permits total \$60,366.

Other permits issued during the past week included the following: Chester Hjelm, 2613 Via Ramon, Palos Verdes, residence 1520 Fern avenue, \$8,000; K. Nyazaki, 4801 Torrance boulevard, residence 19400 Hawthorne avenue, \$1,500; E. Dossi, 843 Gulf avenue, Wilmington, private garage 2443 Cabrillo ave., \$250.

Chamber Will Pick Officers On January 5

Election of officers of the Chamber of Commerce for 1948 will be held in the Pacific Coast Club at Long Beach on Jan. 5, according to Blaine C. Walker, secretary.

The board of directors will attend the dinner meeting at which Robert Plomert, Jr., will be host. A new president, two vice presidents, a treasurer and secretary will be selected by the board.

Reed H. Parkin, president for 1947, was reelected to a position on the board as was Grover C. Whyte. Other members are Charles T. Rippey, vice president; Charles V. Jones, vice president; Dear L. Sears, treasurer and Walker secretary. New board members are W. T. Tibbottson, appointed by the new board for a three-year term; Bronson C. Buxton to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Paul Wheeler and Bob Haggard filling the term of Charles Gotts.

The board was elected by the membership and will choose officers on Jan. 5. Nominating committee is comprised of Sears, Jones and Haggard.

Finishing Touches Put On Tournament Of Roses Float

Torrance's 1948 Tournament of Roses float will be entered in Class A-3 competition, according to Dick Miller, president of the 20-30 Club which is sponsoring the project.

Class A-3 competition includes cities with populations ranging from ten to twenty thousand. Last year, the Torrance Rose Parade float took second prize in Class A-4 competition.

Final touches were being put on the float Wednesday by members of various civic organizations. At the same time the community was being asked to contribute a number of items needed to complete the task. The material, which was hoped would be received by Tuesday evening were: 2 washbasins, 24 one-quart oil cans, and 24 two and one half inch paint brushes. Contributors were asked to bring the items to Barrington's Welding Works, 1124 Border ave.

The Torrance entry will consist of a large relief map of the United States in the background with California shown in golden flowers. A horn of plenty will originate in California passing through the outstretched arms of an animated farmer who will represent the source of foodstuffs being carried by the friendship train.

At their last regular meeting, the City Council appropriated \$500 to insure completion of the project with the stipulation that if other donations are sufficient to cover the cost, the \$500 will be returned to the City. It is estimated that the total cost will be between \$1,800 and \$2,000.

"The overall cooperation has been terrific," Miller said commending in particular, Jack Barrington, who constructed the "U.S." and made his shop facilities available; Tom Watson for contributing plaster and chicken wire; Spud Murphy, who drew the plans for the float using the facilities of the National Supply Co.; Joe Kalina, who constructed the farmer; and International Derrick Co. for donating all of the steel used.

After the float returns from the Pasadena Rose Parade it is planned to place it on display in front of the Chamber of Commerce building on El Prado.

WILLIAM MURPHEY NOW PERMANENT MANAGER OF CITY BUS DEPARTMENT

William Murphey has been appointed permanent manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines by the City Council and the City fathers in making the appointment filled the last remaining of a series of vacant offices caused by resignations in recent months.

Murphey will receive \$350 per month, with a raise to \$400 in six months, and he will get \$35 per month for use of his car.

Two Civil Service examinations were held to fill the post of managing the \$150,000-a-year business for the City. The first one was limited to Torrance men, including several drivers, and none passed.

Before the second examination the City Council gave the Civil Service Board of Examiners the right to waive residence requirements providing no Torrance men are successful in passing the test.

This permitted Murphey, who lives in West Los Angeles, to take the test, and he passed high. He stated he intends to move to Torrance as soon as he can find a house.

Murphey has been managing the bus lines for more than a year since the resignation of C. Z. Ward who organized the lines.

Murphey has been reorganizing the lines and expanding service to provide transportation to all sections of the city. Recently he inaugurated the Long Beach-Hawthorne line.

The other offices which had been vacant are those of City Attorney, vacated by the resignation of City Judge Otto B. Willett, who succeeded Justice of the Peace John A. Shidler to the City Court bench. C. Douglas Smith is the new City Attorney.

The other was that of City Engineer, vacated by resignation of Glenn M. Jain, who is City Engineer of Redwood City, George W. Stevens, chief administrator and engineer at Culver City, will take over this post on Jan. 1, combining the office with that of administrator for the City of Torrance.

Policemen Spend Busy Holiday As Spirits Run High

Drunks, traffic accidents, disturbers of the peace, petty thievery and an alleged shooting were among Santa's Christmas deliveries to the Torrance Police department Christmas day.

In a series of episodes which had members of the force hopping, no less than 11 persons passed through the portals of the city jail, spent a few hours and then were bailed out. One of these a woman, tried to tear the women's cell apart and broke a number of fixtures before she was controlled.

Four traffic accidents marred the holiday traffic record but only one of them resulted in injuries. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore L. Traeger, 2605 Madison street, Long Beach, were in critical condition in Harbor General hospital as the result of a collision at 190th street and Crenshaw avenue Christmas morning. The Traeger car is said to have struck the trailer of a gasoline truck being driven by John J. Miller, 4908 S. Alameda street, Vernon. According to police reports, Traeger was not able to remember what had happened.

Miller, an employee of the Ashbury trucking Co., said he saw the Traeger auto coming toward him in an erratic manner and then described it as leaving the road before coming back on the highway and striking his trailer, police reports showed.

Police are still investigating an alleged shooting in front of a local cafe, in which two people were arrested.

Mrs. Jean Goebel, 1103 Cota avenue, had her purse stolen during the afternoon of Dec. 24. It contained, in addition to her personal papers, several bills and some loose change, according to police reports.

The fourth division will comprise the City of El Segundo and the county territory lying immediately east of it and west of Hawthorne.

The fifth division will comprise the county territory lying north of the City of Redondo Beach and west of Hawthorne and all of the remainder of the district including the Lawndale area.

Weather Report

Dec.	Maximum	Minimum
23	59	45
24	78	42
25	73	45
26	84	46
27	84	44
28	84	48
29	73	48
30	61	45

CONTEMPLATED PROJECTS MAY INCREASE NEW HOUSING UNITS IN TORRANCE TO 3000

The long contemplated abandonment of portions of the Hollywood-Palos Verdes parkway, also known as Catalina avenue, running from the Redondo Beach line to the Palos Verdes Estates line may be brought to a head on Jan. 6.

Interests seeking to build a \$3,000,000 multiple dwelling project of some 400 units have asked that the unused portions of the 225-foot wide parkway be vacated, and it has been suggested that the actual park be reduced to 72 feet.

The traffic portions of the parkway would be in addition, making a total of approximately 112 feet, it is said.

The project would increase to 1,556 the number of housing units undertaken or planned in Torrance during the year 1947.

Those which actually got under way during the year to boost building permits to more than \$7,200,000 include:

Seaside Ranchos, 200 units; Kettler Knolls, 200 units; California-Nevada, 519 units; Torrance Manor, 180 units and other smaller developments.

Projected for this year are approximately 400 more at Seaside Ranchos and other proposed development plans contemplated for 1948 would increase the total new housing units in Torrance in the period 1947-48 to 3,000.

Another is Southwest Properties at 174th and Crenshaw with 180 units proposed.

Jack Pine's big multiple project may get under way, as well as that of J. E. Stinson in the Vista Highlands area. They would add nearly 850 housing units to Torrance.

At the Jan. 6 conference will be members of the City Council, City Planning Commission and representatives of Sunhaven Properties, Inc., headed by Rudolph W. Mayer of Los Angeles. Oliver Clark, his attorney, recently appeared before the Council in behalf of the abandonment. It had been petitioned originally by the Huntington Land Co. and the portions vacated would revert to that firm for transfer to Sunhaven, it is reported.

The multiple project would include large apartments complete with sun decks, playgrounds, loggias, garages and other improvements.

The backers are affiliated with the development of some 519 homes in the Hollywood Riviera section, under the name of California-Nevada Corp., officials said.

Voters Now May Register For Election

Torrance voters have until March 4 to register for the coming municipal election April 13, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett announced this week.

Registration can now be completed at the City Hall during the hours 8 to 12 and 1 to 5, Mondays through Fridays and 8 to 12 on Saturdays. Closing date for filing of nomination papers is Feb. 13.

Persons desiring to vote by absentee ballots must submit a request for same to the City Clerk between Mar. 24 and Apr. 8.

Haggard To Lead Drive

Bob L. Haggard, Torrance realtor and active civic leader, will be the fund drive chairman for the American Red Cross in Torrance this year. It has been announced. He will presently appoint his subchairman, colonels and majors who will assist in the annual campaign.

The drive is being organized by the Los Angeles chapter, of which Torrance is a branch, and is being planned to start in March.

ISBELL TRAVELS TO TEXAS FOR MOTHER'S FUNERAL

L. Milton Isbell, executive secretary of the Torrance Y.M.C.A., traveled to Texas last week to attend funeral services conducted in Fort Worth at Polytechnic Methodist church Friday for his mother, Mrs. Geneva Isbell. Her husband, the Rev. J. F. Isbell of Fort Worth, now a chaplain in a Washington, D.C. military hospital, also was present for the services.

Isbell took the position as Y.M.C.A. secretary here in September after leaving a similar position in Houston, Texas. He and his wife and their two children, Donna 7, and Milton Jr., 14 months, now reside in Torrance.

Ask Shoestring Area Bus Stop

Shoestring Community Association has asked the City of Torrance to arrange for bus stops at all intersections in the strip along Carson street.

At the present time they only at Western avenue, I avenue and Normandie. They would like to have a stop at Harvard and Halldale avenue.



BUS MANAGER . . . William Murphey, who has been temporary manager of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines for many months, has been given the permanent appointment by the City Council. (Torrance Herald Photo.)

P.V. ENGINEER TO VIE FOR BOARD POST

A prominent engineer and student of water supply in this area, W. C. Farquhar of Palos Verdes Estates, this week announced his candidacy for a post on the West Basin Water District's Board of Directors.

Lomita Postmaster Earl Fishel is acting as deputy for Farquhar, who seeks to represent "Division 1" including Palos Verdes Estates, Palos Verdes Hills, Lomita and Watson Junction on the new district board.

The position is a non-salaried elective office.

The Lomita Committee for West Basin Water, under Chairman Harold Hall, gave Farquhar its unqualified endorsement. In attendance were Hall, Ray H. Reed, H. P. Osborne Sr., Ernest Mosher, A. E. Cook and Captain Frank Laski.

A refinery engineer for the Richfield Oil Corp. since 1937, Farquhar as part of his duties in that capacity has made a study of water problems in Southern California, and more particularly the West Basin.

Water Election For West Basin Set For March 2

March 2, 1948, was set by the Board of Supervisors for the election of the Board of Directors of the West Basin Water District, according to Chairman Raymond V. Darby.

The Board approved the division of the district as presented by the committee for the district. According to the committee's plan, the first division will encompass Palos Verdes Estates, Palos Verdes Hills, Lomita and the territory which is included in the district lying south of 233rd street near Long Beach.

The second division will include Redondo Beach with Clifton and Victor precincts, and El Nido precinct. The third division will be the cities of Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach, and the county territory known as El Porto.

The fourth division will comprise the City of El Segundo and the county territory lying immediately east of it and west of Hawthorne.

The fifth division will comprise the county territory lying north of the City of Redondo Beach and west of Hawthorne and all of the remainder of the district including the Lawndale area.



KIWANIS HEAD . . . Dave Colville will be installed Saturday evening, Jan. 3, as president of Torrance Kiwanis Club, succeeding Edwin B. Brown, when the club's annual dinner is held in Palos Verdes Club. More than 150 wives and guests are expected to attend.